

THE DECLARATION Of the Gentry, Clergie, and Comonalty Of the County of E S S E X.

VVere it not that our former too unhappy Zeal (in Idolizing those persons who are now become, by farre more oppressing then the *Egyptian Task-masters*) at this time seconded with silence, would bespeak us stupid and insensible; we needed not to repeat the Sighs & Groans of an Oppressed and almost Ruined *Kingdome*: but lest a *tacit* silence should render us compliant with *Their* Sacrilegious and Regicidious Proceedings, we are necessitated to declare our present Thoughts and future Resolutions. We cannot look upon our present Rulers without casting an Eye upon a *Militant Church*, and there we find them converting a *House of Prayer* into a *Den of Thieves*; an *Orthodox, Learned, and Reverend Clergie*, by them reduced to the extremest want, under pretense of propagating the Gospel; and those (who are yet permitted to exercise their *Ecclesiasticall Functions*), threatened to be deprived of *Gods Allowance*, except, in effect, they will forsake *Him*, and fall down to their *Baal*. We cannot look into our Cloathing Towns, but we behold *Famine* ready to assault them; the poor and diligent Labourer, for want of work, not able to buy him bread, so that those, who before wrought with their hands at home, are now forced to wander abroad, and work with their tongues to beg life; whilst we, who although willing, are hardly able (through the Oppression which lies upon us) to relieve them: And when we look upon the Instruments of these our Miseries, and consider their Persons and Qualifications, we cannot find one publick Spirit (not *one wise man*) among them; Their Number is inconsistent with our Laws, and a large part of that small number are reputed Relatives to *Gaules and Brothil-houses*: Persons who outwardly profess *God*, but in their lives and actions utterly deny him, who through their most perfidious Treacheries and reiterated Perjuries, have blasted the honour of our Nation, and rendered our Religion contemptible to all our Enemies: Who (while they pretend to strive for Religion and Liberties of the people) have no other Cause, but *Cain's*, thinking their Sins greater then can be forgiven; and therefore *per fas, aut nefas*, they endeavour to lay a Foundation for their own Security, although in the Church and Kingdomes desolation. These Premises considered, we conceive our selves obliged, and therefore readily and unanimously we do declare, That with our Lives and Fortunes we will protect, abet, and assist all those worthy Remonstrators of the most Renowned City of London, and the several Countiees of this Kingdome, in the pursuance of their several Declarations for a FULL AND FREE PARLIAMENT; which is the onely means (under God) to bring us out of this miserable Confusion, into which at present we are plunged. And we further declare, That we will pay no Tax, or other Imposition whatsoever, but by authority from our Representatives in a FULL AND FREE PARLIAMENT; Into whose hands we shall commit our Lives and Fortunes, and in whose Results we will ever acquiesce.

Our eyes are up unto our God for Help, and thence our Hopes are fixed on General Monke, that God hath called him forth to be the Umpire & Determiner of our Divisions and Oppressions, by whom he will lead us through the Wilderness of our present Confusion, and bring us to our desired Canaan. In this Confidence we pray to G O D to Bless, Direct, and Keep Him.

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THis our Declaration had came forth a week since, had not the Trappanning Diligence of an unworthy Member of our Countrey endeavoured the surprizal of it and us: Let not three hundred and thirty hands (an inconsiderable number for so great a County) bespeak this Declaration forged, we being forced to do in One day the Work we had cut out for Seven: had we had time, we had brought ten thousand hands; such, as upon a good Occasion, will bring Hearts suitable to the merits of their Cause.